

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 were originally presented. Claim 5 is amended and Claim 20 is new. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-13, 15, and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Collins (U.S. Pat. No. 3,231,280) in view of Hanoun (U.S. Pat. App. No. 2004/0204258). Applicant respectfully draws the Examiners attention to the priority date of the present application, January 16, 2003, which clearly predates the filing date of Hanoun which is April 9, 2003, thus the combination of Collins with Hanoun is not applicable. Likewise reliance on Hanoun with regard to claims 2, 9, and 10 are similarly not applicable. As independent claims 1 and 12 are now in condition for allowance, the 103(a) rejections on the dependent claims are now moot.

Applicant further takes the opportunity to amend claim 5 in response to the Examiner's characterization of elements 10 and 12 of Collins as "extensions." Fig. 5 of Collins shows elements 10 and 12 as support members traversing between ground wheels 6. The extensions of the present invention extend in an outrigger fashion from the base unit and claim 5 is so amended.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas G. Dickson  
Registration No. 51,616

Customer No. 24113  
Patterson, Thuyente, Skaar & Christensen, P.A.  
4800 IDS Center  
80 South 8th Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2100  
Telephone: (612) 349-3004